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Unit 1 – Hong Kong’s landfill problem (50 marks)

- 1 **1** In 2009, Hong Kong generated 6.45 million tonnes of municipal solid waste alone – 921 kg, on average, for every person. That figure made Hong Kong the most wasteful place on earth, according to a survey by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. We produced more than twice as much waste per capita as Japan and South Korea did.
- 5
- 10 **2** Yet there are some positive numbers for Hong Kong’s waste management. For example, though the total amount of rubbish generated in 2009 was double that of 1990, the numbers finally started falling in 2009, when 1.3% less waste was dumped in landfills than in the previous year, despite almost 30 million tourists visiting the city. Hong Kong officials claim the drop was due to Hong Kong’s efforts in waste separation, which has resulted in 45% of Hong Kong’s waste being recycled. Households were also responsible for part of the fall; there was a decrease of 5% in household waste between 2005 and 2009.
- 15
- 20
- 25 **3** Of the total waste generated, 46% is domestic, 23% construction, 22% commercial and industrial, and 9% special waste. **Domestic waste** is from households, institutions and country parks and is collected at public expense. **Construction waste**, which is from building and road works, used to be a much larger percentage of landfill waste, but was greatly reduced when the government started charging for landfill disposal. **Commercial waste** is from retail businesses and offices. **Industrial waste** is from industrial activities, but does not include construction and chemical waste, which is classified separately. **Special waste** includes substances like chemicals, medical waste and sewage treatment residue that require special treatment.
- 30
- 35
- 40
- 45 **4** The major components of domestic waste dumped in landfills in 2009 were food waste (32.7%), paper (20.1%), plastics (19.1%) glass (3.7%) and metals (2.5%). Commercial and industrial waste had a similar pattern: 38.5% food waste, 24.5% paper, 18.7% plastics, 3.5% glass, and 1.6% metals.
- 50 **5** Of the total municipal solid waste dumped in landfills, 49% was recovered for recycling, but only 1% was recycled in Hong Kong. The rest was exported for recycling. These percentages were the same in 2008, though the recovery rate was up from 43% in 2005. The only materials that were recycled completely in Hong Kong were glass and rubber tyres.
- 55
- 60 **6** Plastics make up the bulk of recovered recyclable materials – 33% in 2008 and 38% in 2009 – followed by paper (35% in 2008 and 32% in 2009), and metals (25% in 2008 and 23% in 2009).
- 65
- 70 **7** Although households have been generating less waste, the amount of food waste generated by restaurants is a growing problem. The total amount of food waste from restaurants was almost 300% more than in 2002 mainly because of the increase in the number of restaurants over the period, up 75% from a low of 8,000 following the SARS period in 2003 to about 14,000 in 2009. However, there was still an increase of 37% from 2005 to 2009, so the problem continues to worsen.
- 75
- 80 **8** This is important because food waste is the single largest component of all waste dumped in Hong Kong landfills – 3,280 tonnes per day (1.2 million tonnes a year).
- 85
- ### Possible solutions
- 9 Composting.** One solution for dealing with food waste would be to set up a composting facility to separate food waste, especially fruits and vegetables, and other biodegradable material from other waste and convert it into both biogas, which can be used to generate electricity, and compost, which can be sold to small farmers and gardeners to enrich the soil.
- 10 Incineration.** Another solution would be to build an incinerator. Hong Kong used to have one but it was closed down in 1997. Incineration generates heat by burning waste, and reduces each tonne of waste to 0.2 tonnes of debris, which must be dumped in a landfill. There are problems with this,
- 90

95 however. The burning process produces
air pollutants, the ash must be transported
to a landfill, and the ash is considered
hazardous and therefore may need special
landfills. Although incinerator technology
100 is much cleaner than in the past, residents
in areas near possible incinerator sites
worry that an incinerator would affect
their health, view and property prices.

11 Recycling. As mentioned above,
105 Hong Kong is already separating 49% of
solid municipal waste for recycling and
the government hopes to increase this to
54% by 2015. The Hong Kong
government has been pushing recycling
110 with some success with housing estates,
schools, restaurants, the electronics
industry and others. The amount of
municipal solid waste recovered doubled
115 in the decade from 1999 to 2009, from just
over 1.5 million tonnes to almost 3.2
million tonnes. Paper, metals and plastics
make up about 93% of the recovered
waste.

12 Waste-disposal charges. The
120 government has acknowledged that there

needs to be waste-disposal charges based
on volume if we are to make serious
progress in reducing solid municipal
waste. The imposition of a waste-disposal
125 charge had an immediate effect on
construction waste in 2006 when the
government began charging for the first
time. Despite the charge being only a
small fraction of what was being charged
130 in other cities around the world, there was
a 36% reduction in construction waste
going to landfills in the first year. There is
no question that charges work, both to
reduce waste volume and to increase
135 government revenues to help pay for
waste disposal.

**13 Reducing the amount of waste we
produce.** This is the solution we can all be
a part of. We see changes in the number of
140 people carrying reusable shopping bags,
and the government is working with
manufacturers and food providers to
reduce packaging and food wastage, but
the fastest way to get companies to change
145 their behaviour is for us, their customers,
to change our behaviour.

1. Look at how 'generated' is used in line 1 and decide which of the definitions below is closest in meaning.

- A. created by a natural process
- B. caused something to be
- C. produced by a chemical process
- D. made energy

A B C D

2. Look at how 'claim' is used in line 18 and decide which of the definitions below is closest in meaning.

- A. ask for something because you think it is your right to have it (vb)
- B. a right to have something (n)
- C. say something is true or a fact, without being able to prove it (vb)
- D. call for or need (vb)

A B C D

3. Look at how 'bulk' is used in line 58 and decide which of the definitions below is closest in meaning.

- A. the greater part
- B. large size
- C. a person or thing that is very large
- D. goods transported in large volume

A B C D

4. Look at how the noun phrases are used and briefly explain what they refer to in the article.

(2 marks)

	Noun phrase	Line	Reference
(a)	The rest	52	
(b)	the charge	128	

5. Complete the sentence below (from para.1).

(4 marks)

In 2009 Hong Kong people generated (a) _____ waste (b) _____ any other place on earth on a per capita (c) _____. On average, every Hong Kong person generated 921 kg of municipal solid waste. Japan and South Korea produced only (d) _____ the waste per capita.

6. What is **one** of the positive numbers referred to in line 10?

7. Based on the article above, decide whether the statements below are **True**, **False** or **Not stated**. Tick (✓) **ONE** box for each statement.

(5 marks)

	True	False	Not stated
(a) Every Hong Kong person produces at least 921 kg of municipal solid waste per year. (para. 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Hong Kong recycles more waste than either Japan or South Korea does. (paragraphs 1 and 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Hong Kong recycled 45% of its municipal solid waste in Hong Kong. (para. 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) There were about 6,000 more restaurants in 2009 than in 2003. (para 7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) One problem with incinerators is that they smell bad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. According to paragraph 12, what was the effect of a waste-disposal charge on construction waste?

9. Fill in the percentages in the following table. If the percentage is stated in the article, write it in. For a decrease, put a negative sign before the number (e.g. -5%). If the percentage is not stated in the article, write NS. All details refer to 2009 unless otherwise stated. (13 marks)

		Percentage
(a)	Commercial and industrial waste	
(b)	Amount of paper in municipal solid waste in landfills recovered for recycling	
(c)	Change in restaurant food waste between 2008 and 2009	
(d)	Amount of solid waste in landfills recovered for recycling	
(e)	Special waste	
(f)	Drop in waste generated compared to 2008	
(g)	Paper waste component of commercial and industrial waste	
(h)	Waste that was recycled	
(i)	Waste from domestic sources	
(j)	Construction waste	
(k)	Food waste component of domestic waste	
(l)	Amount of landfill solid waste recycled in Hong Kong	
(m)	Change in household waste between 2005 and 2009	

10. Find words or phrases in paragraphs 1 to 3 in the article that could be **replaced** by the words below.
Use one word for each blank. (6 marks)

(a) number _____

(b) generated _____

(c) decrease _____

(d) picked up _____

(e) need _____

11. Find words or phrases in paragraphs 9 to 12 in the article that mean the **opposite** of the words below.
Use one word for each blank. (3 marks)

(a) combine _____

(b) safe _____

(c) removal _____

12. Below is a draft letter to the editor of the *South China Morning Post* written by your friend P. Paskewitz in response to the impending demolition of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Central. Read the choice of words and expressions given and help P. Paskewitz express his opposition to the demolition by underlining the best option as shown in the example. (13 marks)

Making polluters pay the full cost of demolition

January 28, 2008

So the stately Ritz-Carlton hotel, arguably one of the most attractive buildings in Hong Kong, and only 15 years old, is to be demolished. Lai Sun Development said a year ago that a new office block in place of the hotel could double the revenues of the hotel.

But what if Lai Sun had to pay the full *economy* / *economic* / *economically* and social cost of the obscenely wasteful demolition of this gracious hotel?

At present, under the new "polluters pay" principle, unsorted construction waste can (a) **dump / be dumped / dumping** at landfills for \$125 per tonne. Before January, 2006, this was free. The charge worked, according to the Chief Executive in his 2006-07 Policy Address: "Since the launch of the charging scheme on construction waste early this year, there has been a 36% (b) **reduction / cut down / fell** in construction waste going to landfills." According to the EDP's website, construction waste as a percentage of total solid waste (c) **descended / crashed / dropped** from 37 per cent in 2005 (6,556 tonnes per day) to 27 per cent in 2006 (4,125 tonnes per day), after the fee was (d) **began / introduced / launched**.

Clearly forcing polluters to pay for even a small part of their damage to the environment had a huge and immediate (e) **effect / consequence / achievement**.

Imagine if Hong Kong charges (f) **showed / indicated / reflected** the real cost of demolition to society. Compare our construction waste-disposal rates per tonne to (g) **other / those of other / that of other** developed areas around the world, converting to HK dollars: Tokyo (2,015), Luxembourg (1,780), Austria (1,317), Germany (1,085), Sweden (968), France (581), Ontario, Canada (400-600), Singapore (422), Hong Kong (125).

Disposal rates in space-challenged Tokyo are 16 times higher (h) **than / of / compared to** those of Hong Kong. Even space-favoured Canada has fees three to five times more than Hong Kong's.

In addition to the problem of construction waste disposal from demolition, construction of a new office building to (i) **restore / replace / exchange** the hotel will have adverse environmental effects, including energy consumption, dust and gas emission, (j) **noisy / noisiness / noise** pollution, waste generation, water wastage, and consumption of non-renewable natural resources.

In his most recent policy address, the Chief Executive concluded, "There are no magic bullets, no quick fixes, and certainly no easy laws that can (k) **quick to solve / quickly solve / quickly to solve** environmental problems." In fact, as the government's own numbers show, higher waste-disposal fees are a magic bullet. With a truly sustainable building and waste-disposal policy, the Ritz-Carlton would likely continue to (l) **function / go / act** as a stately, impressive, profitable hotel for (m) **ten of years / tens of year / decades**.

Unit 14 – Someone Else's Crime (20 marks)

by Anna Vera Williams

- 1 I will grow tomatoes
When you've set me free.
I will live at home in peace
Where all will let me be.
- 5 I will wake up cheerful
In the morning to the sun.
I will feel at peace at last,
Once my Freedom's won.
- I have been imprisoned here
- 10 For someone else's crime.
I have lived my life in fear,
And I have done my time.
- All I want, is to feel safe –
Relaxed and calm and free.
- 15 I have been good, to fellow men.
Why aren't they good to me?
- I try to keep my head up high,
Imagining the day
When I will be allowed to fly,
- 20 When I will go away,
And wrap myself in someone's arms
Who knows me as I am.
I try to think about that day,
As hard as try I can ...
- 25 I will wake up smiling,
In the morning sun.
I will kiss the one I love, and
Once this battle's done ...
- I will grow tomatoes in
- 30 My garden in the grass,
And tie my hair behind my head ...
And when this storm has passed,
- I will sit up late at night
With cats and cups of tea,
- 35 I will live no more in fright
Once I have been set free.
- I only want this misery
And fear and pain to end.
I only want a life at peace
- 40 Surrounded by my friends.
But that will be another day.
Today I must remain
Within the madness of this place
In fear, and hope, and pain.
- 45 But always, I hold up my head,
Imagining the day
When I will be allowed to go,
When I will fly away ...
- Not now. It isn't over yet
- 50 I must sit out my time,
As I have done, for all these years,
For someone else's crime.

1. Find three noun phrases that refer to the speaker's imprisonment that is first mentioned in line 9.

(3 marks)

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

2. Look at how the idioms/phrasal verbs below are used in the article. Decide which of the options provided is closest in meaning and blacken ONE circle only.

(6 marks)

	Word / Expression	Line	Meaning
(a)	let me be	4	A. <input type="radio"/> permit me to say whatever I want B. <input type="radio"/> allow me to be a farmer C. <input type="radio"/> leave me alone
(b)	done my time	12	A. <input type="radio"/> spent time in prison B. <input type="radio"/> grown old C. <input type="radio"/> wasted a lot of time in prison
(c)	keep my head up high	17	A. <input type="radio"/> keep doing just enough to live B. <input type="radio"/> keep doing as little as possible to avoid attention C. <input type="radio"/> keep my pride
(d)	when this storm has passed	32	A. <input type="radio"/> when this difficult period is over B. <input type="radio"/> when the bad weather passes above C. <input type="radio"/> when the rain waters the tomatoes
(e)	set free	36	A. <input type="radio"/> helped B. <input type="radio"/> released C. <input type="radio"/> sent away
(f)	sit out	50	A. <input type="radio"/> not take part in something B. <input type="radio"/> stay until the end of something C. <input type="radio"/> remain seated throughout something

3. Which of the options below best restates the meaning of lines 33 to 36?

- A. I am afraid of what will happen when I get out of prison. I will not go to bed early, but instead will spend time with my cats as I drink tea.
B. I will not be able to sleep because of my fear. My cats will keep me company as I drink tea late into the night.
C. When I am released from prison, I will no longer be afraid. I will stay up late drinking tea with my cats as companions.
D. My fear will be gone when I am out of prison. I will dream of cats and teacups when I sleep at night.

A B C D

4. Based on the speaker's thoughts in the poem, which of the following combinations best describes the speaker's feeling about prison.

A. relaxed, calm, free

A B C D

B. fearful, painful, miserable

C. anger, misery, madness

D. self-respect, hopefulness, peace

5. What is the most likely reason the speaker talks about growing tomatoes in lines 1 and 29?

A. He/she doesn't get enough food in prison.

A B C D

B. He/she doesn't like people anymore.

C. He/she is afraid of people now.

D. It will allow him/her to relax.

6. Based on the evidence in the poem, which is the most likely reason the speaker mentions holding his/her head up in lines 17 and 45?

A. He/she considers himself/herself to be better than the other prisoners.

A B C D

B. He/she feels calm and relaxed.

C. He/she knows he/she is innocent.

D. He/she has no fear.

7. After reading this poem, what can the reader infer about the speaker?

A. He/she regrets his/her crime.

A B C D

B. He/she wants to be free to lead a simple life.

C. He/she is a good gardener.

D. He/she knows who committed the crime for which he/she is being punished.

8. List six things the speaker dreams of doing when he/she gets out of prison.

(6 marks)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

Speaking practice 1

Part A: Group Discussion (Prep:10 minutes; Discussion: 8 minutes per group of 4)

The extract below appeared on a gardening website.

Composting

About half of the municipal solid waste dumped in Hong Kong landfills comes from households, and 44 per cent of that is food waste. Much of this food waste, especially the fruit and vegetables, when combined with high carbon sources like shredded newspaper, cardboard and white paper, along with leaves and grass clippings, can be converted to compost by mixing it together in a rubbish bin with holes in it.

Compost is one of nature's best fertilisers. It takes a few months for nature to convert the food waste and paper to compost, but it does not have to cost a cent. To keep your property neat and tidy, however it is a good idea to buy some low-cost rubbish bins to hold the material while it is being turned to compost, which may take a month or two. The compost you produce can be used to improve soil structure, texture and aeration, and increases the soil's water-holding capacity. So if you want to grow beautiful flowers and plants, compost is the healthiest thing you can add to the soil.

Just type 'composting' in your favourite Internet search engine and you will get all the ideas, advice and videos you need to set up a school composting programme.

The principal has asked your group to discuss the possibility of composting some of the school's food waste and what to do with the compost that is produced. You may want to discuss:

- how to separate the fruit and vegetable waste from the other food waste.
- where the compost bins could be kept
- how the compost could be used on the school grounds
- anything else you think is important

Part B : Individual Response (one minute per candidate; no preparation)

1. Do you think composting would work at your school? Why/why not?
2. Does your school have many plants?
3. Would you like to try gardening?
4. Do you grow any plants or flowers at home?
5. Why do you think Hong Kong has so much food waste?
6. Do you think there is any value to learning how to grow things?
7. Do you think students at your school would support a composting programme by separating their food waste?
8. Would you like to be able to grow your own vegetables?
9. If you had space for a small garden would you rather grow flowers or vegetables?
10. If you had a balcony or rooftop at home would you grow plants or flowers there?

Writing 1 – Landfill

You have **TWO** hours to answer Question 1 in Part A and **ONE** question from Part B.

PART A

Write about 200 words on the following topic:

Write a letter to the editor of one of your local newspapers explaining what could be done to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfills. Give your letter a title.

Dear Sir

Hong Kong's three major landfills are almost full, so the government is planning to build an incinerator. I am against this project because of the pollution it will generate. I think there is a better solution to the rubbish crisis – reducing the amount of rubbish we generate.

PART B: Write about 400 words on any **ONE** of the following topics:

1. Sports Communication

Write a persuasive letter to the editor of a local English newspaper suggesting that when the Tseung Kwan O landfill reaches capacity it should be used for mountain bike trails.

2. Drama

Write a dialogue between two people that reveals a fictional world in which reducing or eliminating rubbish is a central concern in their lives because of the lack of space.

3. Poems and Songs

Write a 100-word poem on the theme of reduction, re-use and recycling.

4. Debating

Write the opening argument for the first speaker of either the affirmative or negative on the following motion: That Hong Kong has no choice but to use parts of country parks for landfills.

5. Short Stories

Imagine that you have just visited a truly green school in Hong Kong, with trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and grass growing everywhere from classrooms to rooftops, using soil made from

composting school food and paper waste. Write a report for your school magazine.

6. Popular Culture

Write an advice column for the school magazine in response to the following question from a student.

I feel a bit guilty about the amount of rubbish my family generates. We are extremely wasteful. But there doesn't seem to be anything I can do about it. When I try to persuade them to be less wasteful they just laugh at me or ignore me. I get the same reaction when I try to set a good example. What can I do to get them to act more responsibly?

7. Workplace Communication

You work for a large company or government department. You have been charged with developing a green policy for the organisation. Write a leaflet suggesting ways the company can reduce energy use and rubbish. Use a heading for each section.

8. Social Issues

Write a letter to the editor suggesting ways individuals and organisations can reduce waste.

Answers

Unit 1 – Hong Kong's landfill problem

1. B 2. C 3. A
4. (a) (of the) municipal solid waste (dumped in landfills)
(b) waste disposal charge (for construction waste)
5. (a) more (b) than (c) basis (d) half
6. the 1.3% fall in the amount of waste dumped in landfills in 2009 / 45% of HK's waste being recycled / decrease of 5% in household waste (between 2005 and 2009)
7. (a) F (b) X (c) F (d) T (e) X
8. 36 per cent reduction in construction waste going to landfills in the first year.
9. (a) 22 (b) 32 (c) NS (d) 49 (e) 9 (f) 1.3 (g) 24.5
(h) 45 (i) 46 (j) 23 (k) 32.7 (l) 1 (m) -5
10. (a) figure (b) produced (c) drop / decrease (d) collected (e) require
11. (a) separate (b) hazardous (c) imposition
12. (a) be dumped (b) reduction (c) dropped (d) introduced (e) effect (f) reflected (g) those
of other (h) than (i) replace (j) noise
(k) quickly solve (l) function (m) decades

Unit 14 – Someone Else's Crime

1. (a) this battle
(b) this storm
(c) this place
2. (a) C (b) A (c) C (d) A (e) B (f) B
3. C 4. B 5. D 6. C 7. B
8. (a) grow tomatoes
(b) live in peace / feel at peace
(c) wake up cheerful
(d) wrap himself/herself in someone's arms / kiss someone he/she loves / be surrounded by friends
(e) tie his/her hair behind his/her head
(f) sit up late at nights with cats and tea